

cont my
varying a noise level of the tread pattern upon variation of the inflation pressure of the
tyre.

REMARKS

Applicants submit this Preliminary Amendment together with a continuation application under 37 C.F.R. § 1.53(b). Claims 1-15 are pending in this application.

In this Amendment, Applicants add section headings, section subheadings, and an Abstract of the Disclosure to conform to U.S. practice. Additionally, Applicants add claims to the right of priority and benefit. Further, Applicants cancel, without prejudice or disclaimer, claims 1-15, and add new claims 16-30, which include the same subject matter as the original claims, to improve clarity. The originally-filed specification, claims, abstract, and drawings fully support the amendments to the specification and claims. No new matter was introduced.

If there is any fee due in connection with the filing of this Preliminary Amendment, please charge the fee to our Deposit Account No. 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

FINNEGAN, HENDERSON, FARABOW,
GARRETT & DUNNER, L.L.P.



Dated: May 18, 2001

By: _____
Lawrence F. Galvin
Reg. No. 44,694

LAW OFFICES

FINNEGAN, HENDERSON,
FARABOW, GARRETT,
& DUNNER, L.L.P.
1300 I STREET, N. W.
WASHINGTON, DC 20005
202-408-4000